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General and complete disarmament

Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum**

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* A/69/150.
** The information contained in the addendum was received after the submission of the main report.

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II. Replies received from Governments

Austria

[Original: English]
[15 September 2014]

With reference to General Assembly resolution 68/32 entitled "Follow-up to the 2013 high-level meeting of the General Assembly on nuclear disarmament", Austria underlines the importance of pursuing initiatives to enhance the momentum for the elimination of nuclear weapons and to underscore the importance and urgency of such efforts. Austria, therefore, in implementing the spirit of this resolution, has:

1. Repeatedly and at the highest level expressed strong support for nuclear disarmament to achieve the total elimination of nuclear weapons.

2. Repeatedly called for the urgent compliance with legal obligations and the fulfilment of the commitments undertaken on nuclear disarmament, and — in fulfilling its own obligations in this regard — has been implementing a policy compatible with this by taking and supporting initiatives that help to create momentum, such as the work of the Open-ended Working Group to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons and the conferences on the humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons. Austria is hosting the third such conference in Vienna on 8 and 9 December 2014.

3. Endorsed the call for a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons, which is seen as necessary for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons.

4. Repeatedly called on the Conference on Disarmament to urgently commence negotiations necessary to create the legal framework for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons, for example, by negotiating a treaty to ban the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

5. Repeatedly supported the view that a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons would entail filling the many legal gaps that exist in the global nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation regime. Thus, the existing instruments such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty would continue to remain valid and in force. The report of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons (A/68/514) has identified elements to be considered and has also laid out the role of international law. These legal measures will need to be supported by practical and policy actions, in particular by States possessing nuclear weapons.

6. Supported the declaration of 26 September as the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons.

India

[Original: English]
[27 August 2014]

India supported resolution General Assembly 68/32 submitted by the Non-Aligned Movement calling for the Conference on Disarmament to commence negotiations on a comprehensive nuclear weapons convention.

India is convinced that the goal of nuclear disarmament can be achieved through a step-by-step process underwritten by a universal commitment and an agreed multilateral framework that is global and non-discriminatory. There is need for a meaningful dialogue among all States possessing nuclear weapons to build trust and confidence and for reducing the salience of nuclear weapons in international affairs and security doctrines.

India's working paper CD/1816 enumerated specific steps, including reaffirmation of the unequivocal commitment of all nuclear-weapon States to the goal of complete elimination of nuclear weapons; reduction of the salience of nuclear weapons in security doctrines; measures by nuclear-weapon States to reduce nuclear danger; negotiation of a global agreement among nuclear-weapon States on "no first use" of nuclear weapons; negotiation of a universal and legally binding agreement on the non-use of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States; negotiation of a convention on the complete prohibition of the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons; and negotiation of a nuclear weapons convention prohibiting the development, production, stockpiling and use of nuclear weapons and on their destruction, leading to the global, non-discriminatory and verifiable elimination of nuclear weapons with a specified time frame.

India joined the statement made in the Conference on Disarmament by Chile on behalf of the Group of 21 on 26 March 2014 calling for the urgent commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament in the Conference, in particular on a comprehensive convention on nuclear weapons to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use and to provide for their destruction.

India considers the Conference on Disarmament the appropriate forum for the commencement of negotiations on nuclear disarmament through the establishment of a subsidiary body with a mandate agreed by consensus as part of a comprehensive and balanced programme of work.